

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

## Inside Stories



Scouts Pinewood Derby, p.11  
Philharmonic concert, p.6

VOL. 86, No. 17

15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

MARCH 16, 2023

## Co-op Gets New Registers, And Includes Self-Checkout

by Kyla Hanington

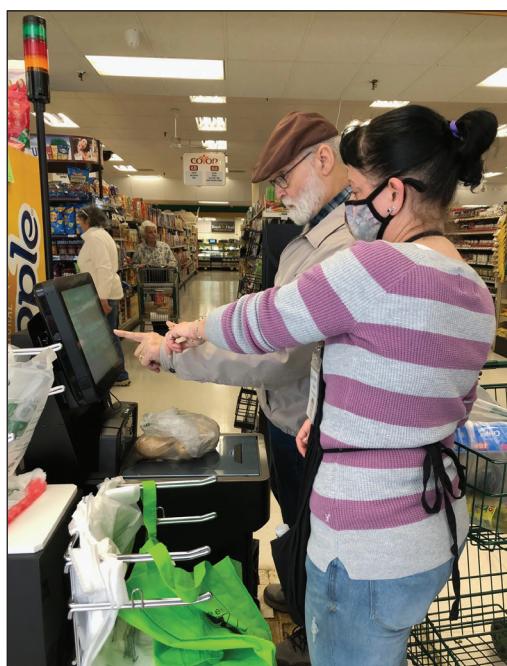
When Kim Kash, member and secretary of the board of directors of the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket, reached out to ask if I'd be willing to write a story about the new self-checkout lanes at the Co-op, I originally said no.

"Holy Cauliflower [which, incidentally, you can buy at the Co-op]?! Self-checkout lanes?!" I said. "I'm not the person you want for this job."

I am not a fan of self-checkouts. For one thing, I think they take people's jobs away and I was brought up to be staunchly pro-labor.

However, Kash reassured me no jobs would be reduced at the Co-op with these new lanes and so I agreed to do the story, if for no other reason than to see if Pete Seeger, banjo in hand, would re-incarnate in order to call me "a dirty scab" the moment I approached the self-checkout lane. Just so you know, Pete was a no show.

The cash registers in the Co-op were so old as to be literally falling apart, Kash said. The board spent two or three months deciding whether or not to add self-checkout when



Co-op member Jon Bell checks his groceries with Jenni Sweet there to guide him through the steps for checking produce.

purchasing new registers, with some directors feeling those lanes were the antithesis of the Co-op. Ultimately, they decided to add them, realizing that while many shoppers favor staffed registers, there are those for whom self-checkout is preferable.

On Saturday, Daniel Hamlin and I met with Kash and Co-op General Manager Dan Gillotte to learn more about the changes to the Co-op. Previously, the Co-op had six staffed registers in the front of the store, although both

See CO-OP, page 6

## Spotlight on Women

## New Hire Tyra Smith to Lead Change and Understanding

by Lois Rosado

Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Officer Tyra Smith began work January 17. She is the first DEI officer for the City of Greenbelt.

Smith defines diversity as everything that makes a person who they are. Our knowledge and sense of ourselves was developed through lived experiences in different environments, she says, from the clothes we wear, to the way we speak, to the various foods that we eat. One only has to look inward to comprehend that each human being is multi-faceted and complex. Diversity is not just about race, class or culture, it is about human growth and development. Smith describes herself as a humanitarian and a creative. She thinks that every human being wants to have an opportunity to do as well as they can within their job or chosen career.



Tyra Smith

As a Radford University undergraduate, Smith majored in education. In her junior year, Trayvon Martin was murdered, sparking activism that led to the Black Lives Matter movement.

See SMITH, page 7

## Spotlight on Women

## Strong Women Are the Backbone Of the Greenbelt News Review

by Erica Johns



Elaine poses with Greenbelt News Review staff at a luncheon held in her honor in 2015. Back row from left, Mary Lou Williamson, James Giese, Mary Moien, Barry Moien; front row from left, Judy Bell, Elaine Skolnik, Virginia Beauchamp

### Part I of a Two-Part Story

The history of the News Review is a story of strong women's impact on Greenbelt, its cooperative institutions, its culture and community. It is a story of women's accomplishments, especially since 1962, when 12 of the 18 person staff were women. Since that year, the editor has been a woman 94 percent of the time, including Mary Lou Williamson from 1972 to 2017 and since 2021; and the board presidents have been women since 1977, except for Bill Rowland and, briefly, Tom White. What kept them involved, often for decades, was the satisfaction they found writing factual, fair community news; spotlighting local residents; and their personal dedication to maintaining a respected news source that enables a cohesive, connected city and citizens.

### By, For and About

The News Review's core function is to report local government, Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI), zoning, development,

public infrastructure and education news, holding government accountable to citizens, and equipping Greenbelt residents for informed public debate and See NEWS REVIEW, page 12

## Greenbelt Schools Get Their Assessment Report Cards

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

In January, the Maryland State Department of Education released the 2022 Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) results. Those results show the varying performances of county public school systems. It was the first such assessment data since 2019, due to the pandemic. Prince George's County

Public Schools (PGCPS) showed several areas of concern, particularly in math proficiency (see "PGCPS Students' Declines in Math Called 'Concerning'" in the February 2 issue of the News Review).

On March 9 the Department

See SCHOOLS, page 8

## What Goes On

### Monday, March 20

7:30 p.m., Council Work-session: Economic Development, Municipal Building

### Wednesday, March 22

7:30 p.m., Council Work-session: Council Referral-Board Reports (Community Relations Advisory Board/Employee Relations Board), Municipal Building

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit [greenbeltdmd.gov](http://greenbeltdmd.gov) for more information.



A pileated woodpecker visits a suet feeder on Ridge Road on March 8.

PHOTO BY JAN MORROW

# Letters to the Editor

## Refugee Family Arrives Soon

Our first Ukrainian refugee family is due to arrive in Greenbelt within a few weeks. Paperwork has been quite a process, one that we started months ago. However, we are ready for them and hope to have another family here before too long, also.

This family fled Sumy, a small city on the Russian border quickly overrun when the invasion started on February 24, 2022.

After moving around Europe they settled with a family in Bussum, a suburb of Amsterdam, in the Netherlands. Bussum is a city of 40,000 with a Ukrainian refugee population of 2,000. Housing there is scarce, and our family has been living with wonderful, kind and generous hosts in an attic apartment. With a peaked sloping ceiling, it reminds one of where Anne Frank stayed.

Greenbelt is a city of almost 25,000 with a Ukrainian refugee population of soon to be three. That's it so far. We can do better.

Not just for Ukrainians of course. Over 200,000 migrants flee to our southern border each year, hoping for a chance for a better life and safety here in the U.S.

Just like my great-great-grandmother, who fled Bavaria when the Prussian army invaded back in 1849. She came here along with 2½ million other German

immigrants at that time also fleeing war, oppression and corruption. I am very glad she did.

Wars and violence are bad enough but this situation is getting much worse. Climate change is creating conditions where the current expectation is for a billion climate refugees worldwide within 10 to 12 years. Some on our southern border are there for that reason now. A billion people makes quite a crowd.

It behooves all of us to prepare for this coming wave of humanity. We have small and big, vacant and underused buildings, all over Greenbelt, perfect for these guests and future citizens of our town.

**Frank Gervasi**  
President, Greenbelt Refugee Aid Committee

## Thank You

The Greenbelt Lake photographers had a wonderful exhibition at the John Hollingsworth Gallery of the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor Center last month. I want to say thank you to the Visitor Center and Patuxent Research Refuge; the News Review and Beltsville News for pictures, interviews, articles and ads; Greenbelt online: [greenbeltonline.org/dont-miss-the-greenbelt-lake-photo-exhibit-at-national-wildlife-center](http://greenbeltonline.org/dont-miss-the-greenbelt-lake-photo-exhibit-at-national-wildlife-center); Greenbelt's Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll for his opening presenta-

tion on February 4; the exhibitors and finally Graeme Simpson for his generosity and time coordinating and managing the exhibit.

**Kathryn Beard,**  
Greenbelt Photographer

## Salutes Friends Of BARC

Mary Ann Canter and Friends of BARC deserve to be saluted for their well-researched full-page advertisement in the March 9 Greenbelt News Review detailing the many ways our local community and environment would suffer severe harm if BARC acreage were sacrificed for an enormous Treasury Department printing plant that

See LETTERS, page 6



by Sandy Rodgers

## On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

### Everything Everywhere All at Once

This hilarious and big-hearted sci-fi action film tells the tale of Evelyn Wang (Michelle Yeoh), an aging Chinese immigrant and the weary owner of a laundromat under IRS audit who is swept up in an insane adventure, where she alone can save the world by exploring other universes connecting with the lives she could have led. Unfortunately, this sweeps her up into an even bigger adventure when she finds herself lost in the infinite worlds of the multiverse. "The kung fu/science fiction/metaphysical action comedy that you didn't know you needed, but just might love," said Brian Lowry of CNN Entertainment. Winner of seven Oscars: best picture, best director (Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert), best actress (Michelle Yeoh), best supporting actor (Ke Huy Quan), best supporting actress (Jamie Lee Curtis), best original screenplay and best film editing.

### All That Breathes

In one of the world's most populated cities, cows, rats, monkeys, frogs and hogs jostle cheek-by-jowl with people. Here, two brothers fall in love with a bird – the black kite. From their makeshift bird hospital in their tiny basement, the "kite brothers" care for thousands of these mesmeric creatures that drop daily from New Delhi's smog-choked skies. As environmental toxicity and civil unrest escalate, the relationship between this Muslim family and the neglected kite forms a poetic chronicle of the city's collapsing ecology and rising social tensions. Nominated for an Oscar for best feature documentary

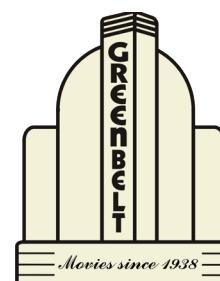
### iMordecai

When Mordecai, a Holocaust survivor, portrayed by Academy Award Nominee Judd Hirsch (The Fabelmans, Ordinary People) is given a new iPhone, an unexpected series of events upends his world. A heartwarming Miami-set comedy based on a true story. Co-starring Sean Astin (The Lord of the Rings trilogy, Rudy) and Academy Award Nominee Carol Kane (Taxi, Hester Street).

### The Quiet Girl

(Irish with English subtitles)

Rural Ireland. 1981. Nine-year-old Cait (newcomer Catherine Clinch) is sent away from her overcrowded, dysfunctional family to live with foster parents for the summer. Quietly struggling at school and at home, she has learned to hide in plain sight from those around her. She blossoms in their care, but in this house where there are meant to be no secrets, she discovers one painful truth. A remarkable debut for writer-director Colm Bairéad, the film offers a deceptively simple reminder that the smallest stories can leave a large emotional impact. The Quiet Girl is the first Irish-language film to be nominated for an Academy Award.



Old Greenbelt Theatre  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
[www.greenbelttheatre.org](http://www.greenbelttheatre.org)  
Members Always \$6.50!  
Member kids are always FREE!  
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student/Military \$8  
All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5  
**OC = Open Captions**  
**CC = Closed Captions**  
**DVS = Descriptive Video Service**

#### SHOWTIMES: MARCH 17TH - MARCH 23RD

##### Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

##### Everything Everywhere All at Once (R) (CC) (DVS)

(2022) (140 mins)

Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM

Sat. 5:00 PM

Sun. 2:00 PM (OC), 5:00 PM

Mon. 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM

Tues. 7:30 PM

Wed. 7:00 PM

Thurs. 7:00 PM

##### All That Breathes (NR) (CC)

(DVS) (2022) (94 mins)

With Guest Speaker!

Sat. 8:00 PM

##### Screen 2 - The Screening Room

##### iMordecai (NR) (2023)

(102 mins)

Fri. 8:15 PM

Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM

Sun. 2:30 PM

Mon. 2:30 PM, 5:15 PM

Tues. 7:45 PM

Wed. 7:15 PM

Thurs. 6:00 PM

##### The Quiet Girl (PG-13) (CC)

(DVS) (2022) (96 mins)

Irish with English subtitles

Fri. 5:30 PM

Sun. 5:15 PM

Thurs. 8:15 PM



#139101612

## Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Mary Lou Williamson, Editor

Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

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#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cathie Meetre, president; Diane Oberg, vice president; Deanna Dawson, secretary; Tom Jones, treasurer; Pat Scully, Carol Griffith and Sandy Rodgers

#### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

#### MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

# Community Events

## Volunteers Needed For CHEARS Gardens

The Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) seeks volunteers to help maintain and develop the three Greenbelt Three Sisters Gardens. The gardens are located in Schrom Hills Park, near Springhill Lake Recreation Center and at the Community Center.

For more information, call Effie Levner at 443-415-1053.



## Golden Age Club Upcoming Events

On March 29, Greenbelt Police Officer Carlos Torres will talk about safety for seniors. There will be Bingo on March 22. All club meetings are held on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the Community Center, Room 201. All seniors are invited to attend as a member or as a guest.

The anniversary luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 19 at the Holiday Inn in College Park. There is a fee to attend.

## Star Party Saturday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party, free and open to the public, on Saturday, March 18 at the City Observatory located at Northway Fields. Attendees can expect to see the Green Comet, Mars, galaxies, nebulae and star clusters currently high in the sky, viewed through the observatory telescope and astronomical camera. All are welcome and there is no charge. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own telescopes to set up on the hilltop.

Observing will begin at 8:30 p.m. and continue for two hours. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.

## Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Mondays and Wednesdays at the Community Center beginning at 11 a.m. Meals must be reserved one week ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208 ext. 4215.

All meals, which provide at least one-third of Recommended Dietary Allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for the week of March 20 are as follows:

Monday, March 20: meatballs with sun gold tomato sauce, buttered penne, green beans, wheat bread, pears and orange juice. The vegetarian option is Jamaican red beans and rice.

Wednesday, March 22: pork loin with French onion sauce, rosemary white beans, broccoli, whole-wheat roll and fresh fruit. The vegetarian option is cold sesame tofu salad.

## Lt. Governor to Visit

This Sunday March 19, at 3 p.m. at Greenbriar Community Center, Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller will be in Greenbelt for the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club's March Meeting for Women's History Month.

## Greenbelt Chess Club Meets Monday

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Monday, March 20 in the New Deal Café, from 6 to 8 p.m. Bring a chess set. For any questions, contact Effie Levner at 443-415-1053.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## Greenbelt Summer Peace Builders Camp

Greenbelt Community Church will host a Peace Builder Camp July 24 to 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The camps are week-long Little Friends for Peace programs designed to introduce peace to children ages 5 to 14. The camp utilizes art, games and presentations to teach children mindfulness, empathy, anger management, conflict resolution and self-empowerment. Students bring their own lunches.

The peace circle process is used to teach the curriculum. The programs share a peace toolbox, which empowers individuals to deepen compassion, empathy and love and imparts skills for living peacefully and spreading peace in communities.

For cost and to register, visit lffp.org/peacecamp. For more information, email peacecamp@lffp.org or call MJ Park at 240-838-4549.

## Novel Endings Open for Business

Novel Endings is the used book room within the Greenbelt Library. Sales of books and other media from this room support special programming and the Library.

Maintained by volunteers for the Friends of Greenbelt Library, Novel Endings receives donations of book discards from the library as well as donations from the community by special arrangements. To donate books, email friendsofgreenbelibrary@gmail.com. Cash and check donations are also accepted in the black box next to the Library's front desk.

Come see what Novel Endings has to offer and support the Greenbelt Library at the same time.

## Hillside Underpass Workday Saturday

Help with planting needed for the benefit of fireflies, butterflies and birds. The Woodlands Committee is hosting a workday on Saturday, March 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will remove invasive shrubs and vines, move mulch and plant elderberry and native wildflowers near the Hillside Road underpass, which is between 13 and 19 Courts Hillside Road. Meet on the bike path by the underpass, just slightly uphill from the Firefly Sanctuary.

What to bring: A face mask for when in proximity to others; clothes that cover the skin; leather gloves and thick pants to protect against scratches and loppers, pruning shears, trowels and shovels.

## Art Class Registration Opens for Everyone

Registration is now open to all for Greenbelt Recreation's spring arts classes. From ceramics and oil painting, to woodcarving with axes, sewing and fused glass, a large range of media and creative experiences are available. Full class listings and registration information are posted at greenbeltdmd.gov/arts.

## Bahá'ís to Celebrate Naw-Ruz on Tuesday

The Greenbelt Bahá'í Community will lead an afternoon group walk at Schrom Hills Park on Tuesday, March 21 to celebrate Naw-Ruz, the Bahá'í new year and the first day of spring. The festivities will continue under the pavilion with a program and refreshments. The public is invited to join, and to bring a three-minute song or poem on the theme of Renewal of the Spiritual and Natural Worlds.

Walkers will meet under the Schrom Hills Pavilion, 6915 Hanover Parkway, at 2:30 p.m. for the guided one-mile walk. The walk will conclude back at the pavilion around 3:15 p.m. for the program, refreshments, hot tea and s'mores.

In 2023, 180 years after the beginnings of the Bahá'í Faith, the global Bahá'í community observes Naw-Ruz as a celebration of renewal – the spiritual and physical springtime – a reminder of the unity of purpose of the founders of the world's great religions and the spiritual rejuvenation each brought to humanity.





**ARCADIA**  
by Tom Stoppard

Directed by Randy Barth  
Produced by Pamela Northrup

Arcadia is produced by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French, Inc. [www.concordtheatricals.com](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

**March 3 - 18, 2023**  
Fridays and Saturdays\* at 8pm  
Sundays at 2pm  
\*Closing matinee on Saturday March 18 at 2pm  
Tickets \$12 - \$24  
For tickets call (301) 441-8770  
or visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org)

Coming soon : The Beaux Stratagem, a production from the Rude Mechanicals in Residence at GAC



## This Week at the New Deal Café

The ONLY Greenbelt venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!



RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

### Nourished by the Greenbelt Co-op

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am – 9pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm

TH 3/16	FRI 3/17	SAT 3/18	SUN 3/19	
Kim Eaton & Partners in Trouble present <i>Austin Outer Limits</i> 7-9pm Songs from Texas about travel, drinking & trouble!	ST. PATRICK'S DAY The Pilgrims of Deep Run 8-11pm Baltimore-based Irish band	Poetry Open Mic* LIVE! IN-PERSON! 1-3pm The EasyWay Band 8-11pm Blues, soul and rock	AN EASTERN EUROPEAN THROWDOWN! *** 5-8pm *** With Orchestra Prazevica and Klezmer All-Stars	
MON 3/20	TUES 3/21	WED 3/22	TH 3/23	MON - FRI
Chess Club 6-8pm  <i>REEL AND MEAL</i> * Monthly social justice film series 7-9pm	NDC Open Mike with Joey Campfire 7-9pm  Sign in's at 6:30 Express yourself!	Ayreheart 7-9pm  A magical blend of lute, electric bass, colascione, violin & percussion	The Porch Delights RUTHIE LOGSDON, ARCH ALCANTARA & BILL WILLIAMS 7-9pm Front porch style Americana music	Happy Hour 4-7pm  \$1.00 off beer and wine

It's time to renew your membership or join NDC. Go to [www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW".

\*For more information on these events, visit the NDC CALENDAR page on our website.

## Greenbelt Access Television Mar. 18, Sat - Mar. 24, Fri

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77  
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)

Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

Greenbelt News Reel (7am, 11am, 6pm, and 12am)

### Women in World War II

Greenbelter Donna Peterson presents on numerous brave women and the crucial roles they took on to serve our country.

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)

### Little Nellie Kelly

Judy Garland and George Murphy star in this endearing classic musical about love, intergenerational struggle, and forgiveness.

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check [greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://greenbeltaccessstv.org) for the full broadcast schedule, and visit [Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube](http://Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube) for new video productions.

It's here!

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

(in person)

26 MARCH 2023 • 3:00 PM

COMMUNITY CENTER • ROOM 204

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR BECOME A MEMBER NOW AT:

[WWW.GREENBELTACCEESSTV.COM/MEMBERSHIP](http://WWW.GREENBELTACCEESSTV.COM/MEMBERSHIP)

RSVP: [GreenbeltAccess@gmail.com](mailto:GreenbeltAccess@gmail.com)

In Memoriam**Janet Zevallos**

by Marat Moore

When my husband and I were signing our GHI papers in 2001 before moving into 19-E Hillside, the staffer helping us said casually, "You've got good neighbors." I paused and looked at her. That was a question I hadn't thought to ask.

It didn't take long for me to appreciate her comment. In GHI, neighbors are vital because of the close, almost intimate, proximity of the units. We lived in an end unit, which meant we had just one next-door neighbor — Janet Murphy and her dog Peaches, who moved in shortly after we did. She was our most enduring neighbor for the nearly 15 years we lived in Greenbelt. Others moved in and out. She stayed.

How lucky we were. Janet was warm, welcoming, kind, smart, funny and gifted in arts and crafts — and in the art of friendship.

We shared our lives, laughed at Peaches, swapped eggs and milk. I loved her steady and good nature, her deep chuckle, her stories and her art. We grew closer as dog lovers after Steve and I adopted baby Zoe.

Janet was devoted to her mother, who I met early on, and when Keith Zevallos came into her life, she shone with happiness. They were a great



PHOTO BY HEATHER ETIUS

A saucer magnolia blossom opens on a tree near the Braden Field tennis courts.



**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT**

**MASS**  
Sundays 10:00 a.m.  
City Council Room  
25 Crescent Road

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
For ZOOM link:  
[FDeBernardo@aol.com](mailto:FDeBernardo@aol.com)

**Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH**

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am  
Sunday School 9:15am  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)



**Greenbelt Recreation Arts News and Programming**

by Rebecca Squire

Teen and adult artists of any experience level are invited to join this Friday's Art Share. This event is part of a monthly, informal series, giving local artists the opportunity to get to know other creatives. Attendees can share and discuss one to three pieces of their work (any medium) in a supportive, group setting. Join in on Friday, March 17 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 113. Sign up to participate at [bit.ly/3X1pkWK](http://bit.ly/3X1pkWK).

**Cross Exhibit**

Rachel Ann Cross is part of a group show called Path of Pyramids and Yarn Bomb at the Sandy Spring Museum. The show is organized by the Wheaton Art Parade and features seven eight-foot pyramids and a community-made, crocheted yarn bomb. The shape of the pyramid is symbolic as it represents the city of Wheaton's location at the intersection of three highways.

Cross is an arts program instructor and artist in residence at the Community Center. Her expansive body of work incorporates found objects, broken jewelry and non-traditional materials to create joyful and meditative mixed media pieces inspired by

nature and the rich cultural traditions of creation stories from around the world.

This outdoor exhibit is open daily until May 21. More information about the show is available at [bit.ly/3JKEn45](http://bit.ly/3JKEn45).

**Applications**

The Community Center is now accepting applications for Artists in Residence through Friday, April 14. Artists in Residence enjoy 24-hour access to dedicated studio space, and a sense of community with fellow artists and the broader public.

Selected artists' residencies will begin in July, and the program is open to both residents and non-residents of Greenbelt. Learn more about the program at [bit.ly/3YGLVWm](http://bit.ly/3YGLVWm).

Greenbelt Recreation's arts programs are supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. For additional program information, visit [greenbeltdmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltdmd.gov/arts).



PHOTO BY REBECCA SQUIRE

Art by Sharon Sefton



PHOTO BY RACHEL ANN CROSS

Pyramid by Rachel Ann Cross

**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church****40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt**

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Come as you are

**Mishkan Torah Congregation**

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

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For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

**Naw-Ruz Celebration**

"Renewal of the Spiritual and Natural Worlds"

**Tuesday March 21 at Schrom Hills Park**

2:30 - One mile group walk

3:15 - Program - Prayer, Poetry, Music

4:00 - Refreshments &amp; s'mores

~All are invited~

**Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**

on Facebook



**EXALTED 9.0**  
EASTER WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

**JUMBO AKE** **TOMI FAVORED** **FREKE UMOR** **BLESSING ALI**

**SATURDAY APRIL 8 2023 | 5PM**  
119 CENTERWAY, GREENBELT MD 20770  
301-345-0007 [INFO@RCCGRESTORATIONCENTER.ORG](mailto:INFO@RCCGRESTORATIONCENTER.ORG)

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuu.org](http://www.pbuu.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

March 26 3 p.m.

**Called To Tell the Truth About Our Country's History**

Rev. Karen Lee Scrivo with Worship Associate Lula Beatty

In this service, we lift up the work of the Equal Justice Initiative and the Prince George's County Lynching Memorial Project, which educate the public about painful parts of our country's history and memorialize the victims of racial terror lynchings. It is only by telling the truth about our country's history that we can hope to build a beloved community of justice for all among ourselves and in the world.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at: University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



# City Information & Events



The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

## MEETINGS FOR MARCH 20-24

Monday, March 20 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Tuesday, March 21 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, *On the Agenda: Review Past Meeting Minutes, Update of Street Tree Replacements Near Greenbriar Condominiums, Update on the Tree Canopy, Final Discussion of Arbor Day 2023, Adjourn*

Wednesday, March 22 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - COUNCIL REFERRAL - BOARD REPORTS (COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD/ EMPLOYEE RELATIONS BOARD)**

Thursday, March 23 at 7 pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Follow-Up to Chainsaw Violations, Spring Clean-Up, Rail Tie Bridge Report, Master Trail Plan Final Review*

Thursday, March 23 at 7:30 pm, **1ST PUBLIC HEARING - CITY MANAGER RESIDENCY CHARTER AMENDMENT**

*In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [greenbeltdmd.gov](http://greenbeltdmd.gov).*

## COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Advisory Planning Board
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

## Request for Proposal Buddy Attick Park Master Plan City of Greenbelt RFP No. 2023-03-R

The City of Greenbelt, Maryland, is requesting submission of proposals from all parties wishing to be considered for consulting services related to the City of Greenbelt's Buddy Attick Park Master Plan. The complete Request for Proposal package can be accessed at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation) (beginning Thursday, March 16, 2023) or requested by emailing [cpracht@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:cpracht@greenbeltdmd.gov).

Bids are due by 11 am on Monday, April 18, 2023.

## CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

### GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT

This FREE program is available for Greenbelt families with newborns to 2 years old. Service includes monthly diapers, formula, baby milestone progress review, and more. Call (240) 542-2019 or email [kfarzin@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltdmd.gov).

### MEMORY CAFE PROGRAMS

The Memory Cafe is a welcoming space for people with memory challenges. Offered online on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month from 2-3 pm and in person on the 2nd Wednesday from 2-3 pm. Pre-registration is required, email [sjohnson@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:sjohnson@greenbeltdmd.gov) or call (240) 542-2029.

### CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Feeling isolated or looking to connect with others? Join our caregiver support groups. In person the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6-7 pm, Virtual on the 3rd Wednesday of month. Pre-registration required, email [sjohnson@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:sjohnson@greenbeltdmd.gov).

### COMMUNITY NURSING PROGRAM

Through a partnership with the Catholic University of America, GAIL is hosting the following events at the Greenbelt Community Center - GFE Entrance at 15 Crescent Road. All events are from 1-3 pm. Pre-registration is required, email [sjohnson@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:sjohnson@greenbeltdmd.gov) or call (240) 542-2029. 3/21 - Mini Mental (HANDS)

### FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

This FREE program occurs every 3rd Thursday of the month from 1 - 3 pm. Look at this section of the City calendar at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/calendar) for locations and information.

### FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS GRANT PROGRAM

Find out more about the City of Greenbelt First-Time Homebuyers grant program today! The grant funds can be used for closing costs and/or down payment for FHA, VA, USDA, FNMA, or Freddie Mac loans. <http://ow.ly/xIKZ50My327>

### ENGAGE GREENBELT

For all up-to-date ARPA program updates including mortgage assistance programs, scholarships, first-time homebuyer grant programs, small business assistance, and more visit [www.engagegreenbelt.org](http://www.engagegreenbelt.org).

## CITY OF GREENBELT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Charter Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, to amend §35, City Manager-Appointment; Qualifications; Term of Office; Removal; Acting City Manager, to provide the Council the discretion to permit a City Manager to live outside the City of Greenbelt, and update gender references to the City Manager.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on this charter resolution on **MARCH 23, 2023, AT 7:30 PM IN THE COUNCIL ROOM** at the Greenbelt Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing on the above date. Written comments may either be presented at this hearing or sent to the City Clerk.

The public is welcome to attend. The Charter Resolution is available online and at the Clerk's office. For more information, please **contact the City Manager's office at (301) 474-8000**.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

## CITY OF GREENBELT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Charter Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, to amend §35, City Manager-Appointment; Qualifications; Term of Office; Removal; Acting City Manager, to provide the Council the discretion to permit a City Manager to live outside the City of Greenbelt, and update gender references to the City Manager.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on this charter resolution on **APRIL 1, 2023 AT 10 AM IN THE COUNCIL ROOM** at the Greenbelt Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing on the above date. Written comments may either be presented at this hearing or sent to the City Clerk.

The public is welcome to attend. The Charter Resolution is available online and at the Clerk's office. For more information, please **contact the City Manager's office at (301) 474-8000**.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

## GREENBELT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP GRANT Application period open through March 31 LAST WEEKS TO APPLY!

The purpose of the Greenbelt Education Scholarship grant is to provide assistance for residents interested in furthering their education beyond high school. Scholarships can be used to assist with the cost of college, trade school, or other educational opportunities.

Qualified residents are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 over two years. For more information visit [greenbeltdmd.gov/scholarship](http://greenbeltdmd.gov/scholarship)



### NO MOW MONTH!

Register today to participate in No Mow Month! You MUST register to participate. Register by March 21, to receive a yard sign.

<https://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/government/public-works/no-mow-month>

### MONTHLY ART SHARE

Friday, March 17, 7 - 8pm.  
Greenbelt Community Center

Artists of any skill level are invited to share 1 to 3 pieces of their work (any medium).

Teen/Adults. FREE.

Details and sign-up: <http://bit.ly/3X1pkWK>

### SPRING FAMILY ART WORKSHOP

Friday, March 24, 6 - 7:30 pm  
Greenbelt Community Center

Create colorful spring baskets for the whole family with artist Rachel Ann Cross.

All ages. \$5 residents, \$10 non-residents.

Details and sign-up with activity code 233204-1: <https://bit.ly/3j6B6kO>

## GREENBELT RECREATION'S SPRING GUIDE 2023

[www.greenbeltdmd.gov/activityguide](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/activityguide)

**REGISTRATION DATES:**  
Residents - March 20 at 10 am  
Non- Residents - March 26 at 10 am

### 2023 GREENBELT WELCOME KITS

The City of Greenbelt Welcome Kit is back! This long-standing tradition of providing new Greenbelt residents a physical welcome to the community is in full swing.

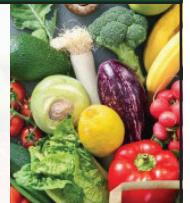
The City of Greenbelt, Public Information Office, is now accepting items (flyers, pens, postcards, brochures, tchotchkes, etc.) to be added to the 2023 Welcome Kit for new Greenbelt residents. If you want to include any information about your business, club, or organization, please send 250 promotional items to the address below by **Friday, April 14**.

## BIKE TO WORK DAY. GREENBELT PIT STOP., GAFC PARKING LOT FRIDAY, MAY 19 6:30 - 8:30 AM.

Registration is open and free!  
[www.biketoworkmetroc.org](http://www.biketoworkmetroc.org)

## GREENBELT WEST PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

### ES NECESARIO REGISTRARSE



THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 11 AM - 1 PM  
SPRINGHILL LAKE  
RECREATION CENTER

For Greenbelt West residents only. This is available to the first 50 residents to register. Register required via QR/link or via Brendy Garcia (240) 424-0302.

20 DE ABRIL, 11 AM - 1 PM  
CENTRO RECREATIVO DE  
SPRINGHILL LAKE  
6101 Cherrywood Lane

Para residentes oeste de  
Greenbelt. SOLO 50 ESPACIOS  
DISPONIBLES.

## UNDERWATER EGG HUNT Friday, April 7, at GAFC



A fun new twist on the traditional egg hunt. This event is limited to 35 children per section.

Registration opens March 20 for residents, March 22 for non-residents, and ends April 3.

231101-1: 10 am, Ages 6 months to 5 years

231101-2: 11 am, Ages 4 - 11

231101-3: 12 pm, Ages 8 - 15

PH: \$1, RNPH: \$2, NRNP: \$3

For more information, call (301) 397-2204.

## TREE CANOPY GRANTS

The City of Greenbelt is awarding a one-time, reimbursable grant to go directly towards the purchase of trees to assist homeowners and community organizations with the planting or replacement of trees caused by storm damage, disease or invasive insects. Funding for this grant will be provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and can be used to purchase, install, stake and mulch the area the tree or trees will be planted.

Applications are now open. To apply, visit [engagegreenbelt.org](http://engagegreenbelt.org) or visit <https://forms.monday.com/forms/4a129f7cd3ba497750f3ced54a200b2a?r=use1>.

For questions on the Tree Canopy grant, email [tree canopy@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:tree canopy@greenbeltdmd.gov).

Deadline to apply is no later than **June 1, 2023, at 4:30 pm**.

## CO-OP continued from page 1

Kash and Gillotte noted that normally only two or three registers were open at any given time. Gillotte discussed the Co-op's long-term staffing shortages, saying, "if I could have six people running registers every day, I would do that." With the urgent need to replace the old, failing registers, Gillotte and the board assessed options as well as consumer preference and felt there was both a demand and a readiness for self-checkout.

Gillotte and Kash stressed that staffed registers would remain open, no one would be forced to use self-checkout and the self-checkout will not lead to a reduction in staff. But those lanes do provide more options for shoppers. There are a number of reasons people prefer self-checkout, Gillotte explained, from social anxiety, to wanting a faster checkout experience, to being very comfortable with digital technology. Consumer desires are shifting, he noted, and consumers are used to self-checkout options at other local grocery stores, including Giant, Safeway and Target. "Greenbelt Co-op is committed to meeting the expectations of shoppers who have been coming here for the last 30 or 40 years as well as new customers we would like to stay with the Co-op for the next 30 or 40," Gillotte said.

Following the upgrade, Co-op has three new staffed registers and three self-checkout lanes, keeping the total number of registers the same. Self-checkout provides more opportunity to serve customers with the available staff, Gillotte said, adding "ultimately, this is intended – and I think people will experience this – as a service upgrade. The friendliness is still here."

One of the moves has been to create a more open, "more welcoming and more comfy" space at the Co-op entry.

While the self-checkout lanes were not officially open yet on the day when we were there, Gillotte opened one for us and we have this to report on the experience:

The self-checkout lane wants the phone number that is associated with your membership rather than the membership number. If this news causes your blood to run cold because you can't remember the phone number you used to open your membership, don't panic. The self-checkout attendant will happily update your membership information to your current, remembered phone number.

Although the lanes were not officially open and two rolling chip racks were in place indicating the lanes were closed, three different people came up and asked if they could use the self-checkout. Given the brief time we were there, anecdotal evidence suggests there are a number of shoppers who will opt for self-checkout if they have the choice.



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

Kyla Hanington and Daniel Hamlin argue over who will scan their groceries.

Pay attention to what you scan. If you hesitate, the laser reader might scan the item twice. But with an attendant there to help with the three lanes, any issues will be quickly handled.

The self-checkout lanes do not take cash! Head to a staffed register for your cash purchases.

Self-checkout doesn't give the option for cash back at the end of your purchase so head to the staffed register if this is part of your errand.

Whichever checkout option you choose, the friendly helpfulness of the Co-op staff will still be there.



## Letters continued

could readily be built on an already existing industrial site someplace else.

Their advertisement rightly notes that the Research Center is "an environmental gem, a historic New Deal-created scientific community of outstanding natural beauty." This national treasure bears the name of Henry A. Wallace, farmer, journalist, businessman and one of the world's most prominent agriculturalists of his time.

A leader of the New Deal,

he served on different occasions as vice president, secretary of agriculture and secretary of commerce. Together with Harry Hopkins, Harold Ickes and Frances Perkins, Wallace is the subject of Derek Leebaert's excellent new book, *Unlikely Heroes: Franklin Roosevelt, His Four Lieutenants, and the World They Made*.

Henry A. Wallace deserves to be remembered and the agricultural station named for him deserves to be protected from devastation.

Charles Hoffacker

## Copland's Music for Movies In Concert Saturday at BSU

by Susan Pearl

At a Saturday, March 18 concert, the Prince George's Philharmonic will perform music directly related to Greenbelt. The orchestra will open with Aaron Copland's Music for Movies, including part of his score for the 1939 film, *The City*, which was created for the 1939 World's Fair in New York. It contrasts idyllic rural villages with crowded, noisy cities, ending with the ideal, planned city of Greenbelt.

The Philharmonic's concert will be performed at 7:30 p.m., at the Fine and Performing Arts Center at Bowie State University. Following Copland, the orchestra will perform *A Ritual of Dances* by Haig Mardirosian, and *Symphony No. 3* by African American composer Florence Price. Also included in this concert will be choral selections by the combined Bowie State University Choir and the Prince George's County Choral Society.

Tickets may be purchased at the door. For more information, call 301-446-3245 or go to PGPhilharmonic.org.

The success of *The City* led to additional opportunities for Copland. He composed the film scores for *Of Mice and Men* (also 1939), *Our Town* (1940) and *North Star* (1943). *North Star* told the story of the people of a Ukrainian village who united to resist invading Nazi troops, eerily bringing to mind today's situa-



PHOTO BY BRUCE BOYAJIAN  
Prince George's Philharmonic player Suzanne Lomax

tion. In 1942, Copland created a suite of musical moments from his first three film scores. It is this suite that the Philharmonic will be performing. The suite opens with *New England Countryside* from *The City*, portraying simple agrarian life that will soon be compared with the noise, dirt and crowding of the nation's large cities. After a selection from *Of Mice and Men*, the third selection is *Sunday Traffic* from *The City*. In the film, it accompanies images of snarled traffic and a crashing jalopy; the music is jaunty and sometimes quite comical. The fourth and fifth selections are from the scores of *Grovers Corners* and *Of Mice and Men*.

### Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

[editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com)



## WE CAN SATISFY YOUR MARCH MADNESS HUNGER!

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# Greenbelt Park's Hiking Trails Reopen in Time for Spring

This past weekend saw the reopening of Greenbelt Park's hiking trails. The reopening of the trails, which had been closed since last summer, was a major effort, especially in areas where massive trees had fallen across the trails.

The trails and picnic areas were closed following the July 2022 storm in which winds reached speeds of over 80 miles per hour, damaging many trees throughout the park. While one section of the Perimeter Trail at the southern end of the park will

remain closed to repair a trail washout, all other major trails are open for hiking.

Since the July 2022 wind-storm, National Park Service (NPS) staff and contractors have removed more than 100 fallen and hazardous trees. The NPS was able to safely reopen the campground on September 30, 2022, but needed additional resources to address damaged trees in the picnic areas and along trails. Greenbelt Park staff received assistance from an NPS Arborist Incident Response

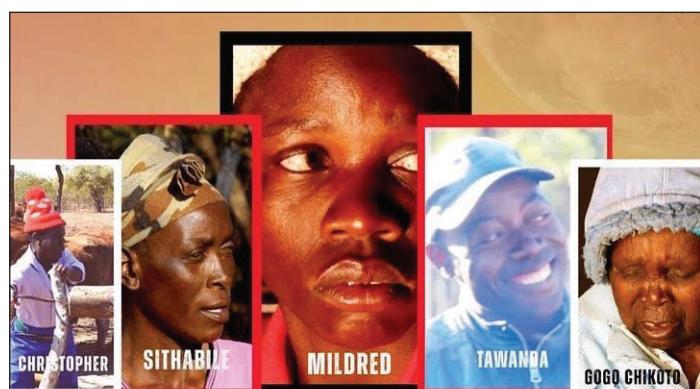


PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT NATIONAL PARK

This newly opened trail in Greenbelt Park had been blocked by a huge tree since the destructive storm in July 2022.

## March Reel & Meal Inspires With Film: Even Our Dreams

by Frank Gervasi



SCREENSHOT BY NYARI MASHAYAMOMBE

### Even Our Dreams screenshot

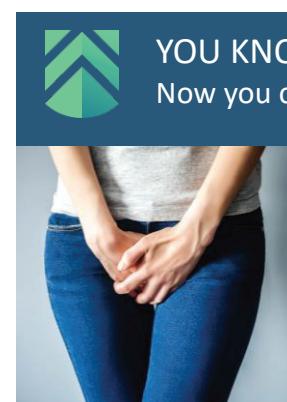
Advocacy for women, girls and persons with disabilities is the topic at this month's Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café program on Monday, March 20. The film, Even Our Dreams, portrays the lives of Zimbabwean people with disabilities: women and girls as well as men. The stories of these brave, strong individuals overcoming the difficulties imposed by abuse, neglect, poverty and so forth, are inspirational. Sometimes just a little help and kindness from others is all it takes to overcome what would seem to be insurmountable odds.

Filmmaker, human and women's rights advocate Nyari Mashayamombe will be present at the Café for the film and topic presentation and Q&A after the film. Coming from her home in Zimbabwe, she has been working in New York City at the United Nations Conference on the Status of Women. Nyari is also a musician with a fine voice. Expect some live singing as a special part of the program.

The film program is free. A full dinner menu is also available, which includes a number of vegan meal options. Mask wearing is optional for those attending the event in person. Those wishing to view it online

must register via the Zoom link [tinyurl.com/3xnm9277](https://tinyurl.com/3xnm9277) and log on at 6:45 p.m. on Monday. The program starts at 7 p.m.

Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café is a monthly film and discussion series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues, presented by the Utopia Film Festival and the Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition. For more information, contact Frank Gervasi at 301-467-2418.



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Visit [aaurology.com/virtual-uti-clinic](http://aaurology.com/virtual-uti-clinic) for location hours or scan the QR code.

**NOW IN GREENBELT!**  
**AA Urology**  
Phone: 410-295-0626



## SMITH continued from page 1

She wanted to do something to help reduce tensions at her predominantly white campus, but was unsure about how to do that until she took a sociology course. Sociology became her minor and through that lens she examined the challenges of race, diversity, equity, inclusion and the different layers of identity. While examining oppression and its impact on American society, she concluded that only through the educational process can human/social relationships grow.

Smith has a master's degree in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on multi-cultural education. Working in the Department of Multi-Cultural services while completing her graduate degree at Texas A&M University, she trained peer instructors about various diversity and inclusion concepts. The instructors trained members of the campus community and helped to improve intercultural relationships at the college.

Seeing the possibilities of educating through DEI work, she obtained employment at Miami University of Ohio in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion where she oversaw various efforts and continued doing trainings to deepen cultural and social relationships on the campus. From there she was hired at a biotech company's Center for Diversity. That experience was less than fulfilling because she worked remotely and could not see the impact of the training. When she saw the ad for a diversity, equity and inclusion officer in Greenbelt she applied and was hired.

Smith thinks that our city understands that diversity, equity and inclusion are important because they impact the daily lives and interactions of everyone. In studying the history of Greenbelt

as a planned city, established in 1937 with amenities within walking distance, she learned that it was a segregated city according to federal housing policies of that era. Smith sees that strides have been made in Greenbelt toward greater diversity and inclusiveness over the years. So far, her interactions with city employees and elected officials have been positive, and there seems to be interest in learning about what DEI means for Greenbelt.

To create this new office, Smith indicated that gathering information from the workforce and community will guide her work going forward. She will hire a DEI consultant to design and implement an audit focused on city agencies and employees. From the audit results, she will develop a strategic plan for the city so that there is a baseline for understanding diversity, equity and inclusion. The strategic plan will also include initiatives for each agency. Trainings will be carried out by each department. DEI will also be part of the orientation for new hires. This first year, she says, will be used for research, development and strategic planning and the second year for implementation.

Smith is aware that she is creating a new position and office, and that there will be pushback and challenges. Her hope is that staff, employees and community will embrace change, even when they feel uncomfortable, for that is the beginning of growth and leads to deeper social and cultural understanding. Change is ever present in life, says Smith. Technological growth has altered our lives in profound ways and most of us have had to adjust and adapt. Diversity, equity and inclusion work is the same.



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## SCHOOLS continued from page 1

of Education released further data showing performance at the individual school level. Despite the bleak aggregated data for the county, an announcement from PGCPSS on March 9 touted that 71.4 percent of schools received the three highest ratings (it was a five-star rating system). "State ratings offer a snapshot of how schools are helping students achieve success in the classroom and beyond and we use it as a tool to strengthen teaching and learning," said Dr. Monica Goldson, chief executive officer. "I am proud of our continued progress and work to accelerate learning and close achievement gaps. Every student deserves a five-star school and I know we can get there."

Based on the schools' overall scores, each received a 1 to 5 star rating, as well as a percentile ranking of their position within public schools of their category – either elementary, middle or high – in the State of Maryland (with 1 being the lowest percentile and 100 the highest). Here's how Greenbelt's schools fared individually in the state's school report cards:

### Greenbelt Elementary

Overall rating: 4 stars  
Percentile Rank: 48

In students' performance on state tests, 20.3 percent of students met proficiency in math and 41.2 percent in English Language Arts (ELA). The school earned 2.4 out of 5 points for average performance level in mathematics and 3 out of 5 points for average performance level in ELA.

In measures of academic progress, 40 percent of students were proficient in science, and the school earned 5.6 out of 12.5 for student growth in mathematics, 8.7 out of 12.5 for student growth in ELA and 4.9 out of 5 for a well-rounded curriculum.

In progress toward English language proficiency for English learners, the school earned 5.8 out of 10 points. They earned 25 out of a possible 35 points for quality of school environment.

Greenbelt Elementary did not meet the target for academic measures (a combination of academic achievement, academic progress and progress in achieving English language proficiency) but did see improvement. On academic measures (academic achievement, academic progress and progress in achieving English language proficiency) the school earned 36 of a possible 65 points, which did not meet targets but did show improvement. In measures of school quality and student success (a combination of students not being chronically absent, access to well-rounded curriculum and student and educator surveys) the school earned 25 of a possible 35 points, which did not show improvement.

In breakdown by demographics only, Asian students met the annual target for ELA, though Asian students and English learners both showed improvement. In math, no groups met annual achievement targets but Asian students met the improvement measures. The average for all students was 20.3 percent proficiency in math, with students with disabilities and Hispanic/Latinx students 5 percent or less proficient in math. In ELA the average proficiency for all students was 41.2 percent, the best performing group being Asian

students, of which 75 percent were proficient and the least proficient were students with disabilities at 5 percent or less.

### Springhill Lake Elementary

Overall rating: 2 stars

Percentile Rank: 15

In students' performance on state tests, 5 percent or less of students showed proficiency in math and 17.4 percent in ELA. The school earned 1.8 out of 5 points for average performance level in mathematics and 2.4 out of 5 points for average performance level in ELA.

In measures of academic progress, 8.6 percent of students were proficient in science and the school earned 1.6 out of 12.5 for student growth in mathematics, 2.8 out of 12.5 for student growth in ELA and 4.7 out of 5 for well-rounded curriculum.

In progress toward English language proficiency for English learners the school earned 6.8 out of 10 points based on the state measures. They earned 21.7 out of a possible 35 points for quality of school environment. It did not meet the target for academic measures nor did it show improvement in these. In measures of school quality and student success, the school earned 22 of a possible 35 points, which met the target for improvement.

Breakdown by demographics shows no student groups achieved 5 percent or greater proficiency in math. The average percentage proficiency in ELA across all students was 17.4 percent, the highest achieving group was Hispanic/Latinx with 18 percent testing proficient and the lowest was students with disabilities with 6.7 percent proficient in ELA. No groups met any targets for proficiency in math or ELA and the English learner category of students alone showed improvement, which was with 16.9 percent proficiency in ELA.

### Magnolia Elementary

Overall Rating: 3 stars  
Percentile Rank: 34

In students' performance on state tests 7.8 percent of students met proficiency in math and 32.7 percent in ELA. The school earned 2 out of 5 points for average performance level in mathematics and 2.7 out of 5 points for average performance level in ELA.

In measures of academic progress, 25.7 percent of students were proficient in science, and the school earned 3.6 out of 12.5 for student growth in mathematics, 5.6 out of 12.5 for student growth in ELA and 4.9 out of 5 for well-rounded curriculum.

In progress toward English language proficiency for English learners, the school earned 6.6 out of 10 points. The school earned 25.5 out of a possible 35 points for measurements of quality of school environment.

Magnolia did not meet the target for academic measures nor improvement in that category, with 29 points out of a possible 65. In measures of school quality and student success, the school earned 26 of a possible 35 points, which did not show improvement.

Breakdown by demographics shows that overall 7.8 percent of students are proficient in math, with Asian students the most proficient (23.5 percent) and Hispanic/Latinx and students with disabilities the least proficient (5 percent or less proficient). No student groups met the annual

target or showed improvement in math. In ELA, 32.7 percent of all students are proficient, with Asian students (of which 58.8 percent test proficient), English learners (27.3 percent proficient) and economically disadvantaged students (21.6 percent proficient) meeting the annual targets. In addition, Black/African American students showed improvement in ELA, with 35.7 percent testing proficient.

### Dora Kennedy French Immersion (K-8)

Overall rating: 5 stars

Percentile rank: 89 for elementary, 97 for middle

In Dora Kennedy's elementary school, 40.6 percent of students were proficient in mathematics and 75.8 percent were proficient in ELA. In the middle school grades 28.3 percent were proficient in math and 73.6 percent in ELA. The elementary grades earned 2.9 out of 5 points for average performance in math and 3.6 out of 5 points for average performance in ELA. The middle school grades earned 2.6 out of 5 points for average performance in mathematics and 3.5 out of 5 for average performance level in ELA.

In the elementary school grades 65.6 percent of students were proficient in science, in the middle school grades 52.1 percent. For student growth in math the school earned 10.4 out of 12.5 for both elementary and middle grades and for student growth in ELA it earned 9.4 out of 12.5 in elementary grades and 11.2 out of 12.5 in middle school grades. For well-rounded curriculum the elementary grades earned 4.8 out of 5 and the middle school grades earned 3 out of 3. 92.9 percent of English language learners in the elementary grades were on track to achieve proficiency in English and there was insufficient data at the middle school level. The quality of the school environment earned 29.8 points out of a possible 35 at all levels.

On academic measures the school earned 49 from a possible 65 points, which did not meet the annual target but showed improvement. In school quality and student success it earned 30 points out of 35, also showing improvement.

Overall, at the elementary level, 40.6 percent of all students were proficient in math, which neither met the annual target nor showed improvement. From disaggregated data, no student groups met annual targets in math proficiency nor showed improvement in math, with students with disabilities struggling the most, with only 9.1 percent proficiency.

In ELA, however, 75.8 percent of all students were proficient. Broken into student groups, White students performed best in ELA with 93.1 percent proficient and the only group of students not

INDICATOR	POSSIBLE POINTS	EARNED POINTS*	ANNUAL TARGET	IMPROVEMENT
Academic Achievement	20.0	8.5	☒	☒
Academic Progress	35.0	21.2	na	✓
Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency	10.0	5.8	☒	✓
School Quality and Student Success	35.0	25.0	na	☒
<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>60.5</b>		

Total Earned Points: 60.5

Total Points Possible: 100.0

**60.4%**

TOTAL EARNED PERCENT

### Overall school rating, Greenbelt Elementary

INDICATOR	POSSIBLE POINTS	EARNED POINTS*	ANNUAL TARGET	IMPROVEMENT
Academic Achievement	20.0	5.2	☒	☒
Academic Progress	35.0	9.6	na	☒
Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency	10.0	6.8	✓	✓
School Quality and Student Success	35.0	21.7	na	✓
<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>43.2</b>		

Total Earned Points: 43.2

Total Points Possible: 100.0

**43.2%**

TOTAL EARNED PERCENT

### Overall school rating, Springhill Lake Elementary

INDICATOR	POSSIBLE POINTS	EARNED POINTS*	ANNUAL TARGET	IMPROVEMENT
Academic Achievement	20.0	6.8	☒	☒
Academic Progress	35.0	15.3	na	☒
Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency	10.0	6.6	✓	✓
School Quality and Student Success	35.0	25.5	na	☒
<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>54.2</b>		

Total Earned Points: 54.2

Total Points Possible: 100.0

**54.1%**

TOTAL EARNED PERCENT

### Overall school rating, Magnolia Elementary

INDICATOR	POSSIBLE POINTS	EARNED POINTS*	ANNUAL TARGET	IMPROVEMENT
Academic Achievement (E/M)	20.0 / 20.0	12.3 / 11.2	☒ / ☒	☒ / ☒
Academic Progress (E/M)	35.0 / 31.5	27.8 / 26.4	na / na	✓ / ✓
Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency (E/M)	10.0 / na	9.3 / na	✓ / na	✓ / na
School Quality and Student Success (E/M)	35.0 / 35.0	29.8 / 29.8	na / na	✓ / ☒
<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b>	<b>100.0 / 86.5</b>	<b>79.2 / 67.5</b>		

Total Earned Points: (79.2 + 67.5) 146.7

Total Points Possible: (100.0 + 86.5) 186.5

**78.6%**

TOTAL EARNED PERCENT

### Overall school rating, Dora Kennedy French Immersion

meeting the annual target in ELA was Hispanic/Latinx, with 52.6 percent proficiency.

At the middle school level 28.3 percent of all students were proficient in math, neither meeting the annual target nor showing improvement. Only Hispanic/Latinx students met the annual target for math proficiency in middle school, with 36.4 percent proficient. White students were most proficient at 64.7 percent but that figure neither met the annual target nor showed improvement. The group least proficient in math was economically disadvantaged students with only 11.5 percent proficiency.

In middle school grades 73.6 percent of all students were proficient in ELA, which did not meet the annual target nor show improvement. However, Hispanic/Latinx students met their target with 81.8 percent proficiency and Black/African American students did not meet the annual target but did show improvement with 70.6 percent proficiency in ELA for middle school grades.

See SCHOOLS, page 9

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## SCHOOLS continued from page 8

### Greenbelt Middle School

Overall Rating: 3 stars

Percentile: 57

In mathematics, 18.5 percent of students tested proficient and in ELA, 41.5 percent. The school earned 2.2 out of 5 points for the average performance of students in mathematics and 2.9 out of 5 for average performance in ELA. 34.1 percent of students were proficient in science. The school earned 8.4 out of 12.5 for student growth in mathematics, 7.9 out of 12.5 for student growth in ELA and 2.3 out of 3 for well-rounded curriculum.

14.9 percent of English learners were making sufficient progress towards learning English, which gave the school a 1.5 point rating out of 10.

In an assessment of the quality of school environment, the school earned 23.1 out of a possible 35 points. In overall academic measures they received 29 out of a possible 62 points, which did not meet targets or demonstrate improvement. In measures of quality and student success, they earned 23 out of 35 points, which didn't show improvement.

In student achievement, overall 18.5 percent of all students were proficient in math. The least proficient group in math was the English language learner with 5 percent or less proficiency. The most proficient in math were students in the category of two or more races, of which 50 percent tested proficient, which made them the only group to meet the annual target for math proficiency and the only group to improve. In ELA, 41.5 percent of all students showed proficiency, which met the annual target and showed improvement. In fact, all student groups improved in ELA and many met the annual targets for proficiency, too (including Asian, Black/African American, White and those identifying as two or more races). White students performed best in ELA, with 80.8 percent testing proficient, while four groups didn't meet the annual target: Hispanic/Latinx (28.4 percent), students with disabilities (10.9 percent), English learners (9.4 percent) and economically disadvantaged students (25.9 percent).

### Eleanor Roosevelt High School

Overall Rating: 4 stars

Percentile Rank: 72

54.9 percent of Roosevelt students were proficient in math and 77.2 percent were proficient in ELA. The school earned 3.3 out of 7.5 in average performance in math and 5.9 out of 7.5 for average performance level in ELA.

The four-year graduation rate was 87.6 percent and the five-year rate was 89.8 percent.

41.7 percent of English learners were making progress on track towards achieving proficiency in English language.

73.8 percent of ninth-grade students were on track for graduation and the school earned 4 out of 5 for well-rounded curriculum. The quality of the school environment was assessed at 21.4 out of 35 points, compiled from measures of chronic absence, access to a well-rounded curriculum and student and educator surveys. In academic measures, which for high schools combine academic achievement, graduation rate, progress in achieving English language proficiency and readiness for post-secondary success, the school earned 44 out of a possi-

ble 65 points, which did not meet the target nor show improvement.

In measures of school quality and student success, which involves a combination of assessing chronic absences, access to well-rounded curriculum and student and educator surveys, the school earned 21 out of 35 points, showing improvement.

In achievement in math, overall, 54.9 percent of students were proficient, which did not meet the annual target nor show improvement. The most proficient in math were Asian students (84.8 percent) closely followed by White (83.1 percent), while only 46.9 percent of Hispanic/Latinx students were proficient – though an improvement for that group – and 45.4 percent of Black/African American students were proficient. The students struggling the most with math proficiency were shown to be students with disabilities and English learners, of which 5 percent or fewer were proficient. 25 percent of economically disadvantaged students were proficient in math, which was an improvement for that group. No groups met the annual target for proficiency in math.

In ELA, 77.2 percent of all students were proficient, meeting the annual target and satisfying the measures of improvement. Broken down by demographic, several groups met the annual target for proficiency in ELA: White students (100 percent proficient), Asian students (91.3 percent proficient), Black/African American students (74.9 percent proficient) and economically disadvantaged students (59.7 percent). Those groups also all demonstrated improvement. Students with disabilities (8.3 percent proficient) and Hispanic/Latinx students (61.1 percent proficient) met neither the annual target nor showed improvement. English learners (17.4 percent proficient) didn't meet the annual target but showed improvement.

The graduation rate for stu-

dents overall was 87.64 percent (over four years) and 89.75 percent (over five years), which failed to meet the annual target for students overall or measures for improvement. Asian and White students were the two groups who met the annual targets for both four-year and five-year graduation, with 98.33 percent graduation rate for Asian students and 98.04 for White students. Students with disabilities also met the annual target for the five-year graduation rate with 88.89 percent graduating. Students with disabilities had the lowest four-year graduation rate, with 75.61 percent graduating. Of the five-year cohort, Hispanic/Latinx students had the lowest rate with 81.21 percent graduation.

Other public schools located outside of Greenbelt but serving Greenbelt families include:

Glenarden Woods (TAG) Elementary (2-5) – 5 stars; percentile rank 99

Phyllis E. Williams Spanish Immersion School (Elementary) – 4 stars; percentile rank 57

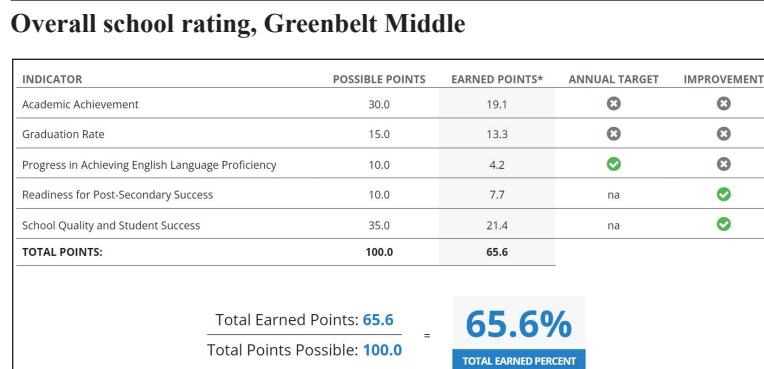
Robert Goddard Montessori (K-8) – 5 stars; percentile rank of 85 for elementary and 95 for middle

Thomas Pullen Creative and Performing Arts (K-8) – 5 stars; percentile rank 83 for elementary and 94 for middle

College Park Academy Public Charter School (6-12) – 4 stars; percentile rank 69 for middle and 92 for high

Academy of Health Sciences at PGCC (High) – 5 stars; percentile rank 99.

The 2022 Maryland Public Schools Report Card is available at reportcard.msde.maryland.gov and can provide the data for any Maryland public school. The data for how individual students performed on each measure on the State MCAP assessment will be released to parents in coming weeks.



- Charts courtesy Maryland State Department of Education

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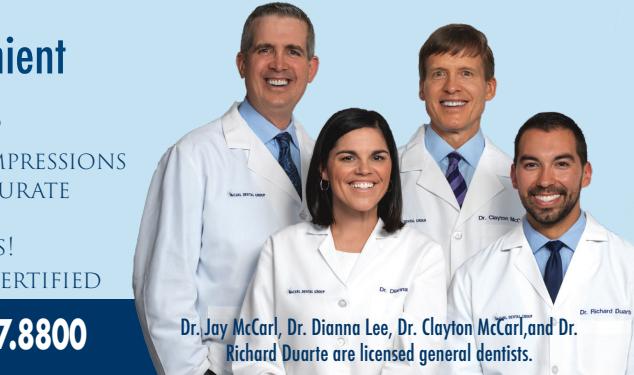
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## Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred March 6-12. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltdmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

### Attempted Vehicle Theft Arrest

On March 8 at 7:23 p.m., police officers observed three men wearing all black pulling on door handles and breaking a window of a Hyundai in the 6100 block of Springhill Terrace. After a short foot chase, officers arrested 18-year-old Aziyah Jadyin Johnson of Accokeek and charged him with attempted theft of auto, rogue and vagabond, and malicious destruction. The other two suspects were not located. A screwdriver, commonly used in auto thefts, was found in Johnson's possession.

### Assault

On March 8 at 4:03 p.m. near 6300 Breezewood Drive, a fight broke out, and options were advised. On March 9 at 7:50 a.m. near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a fight started between teenagers walking home from school; options were advised. On March 10 at 3:20 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man caused a disturbance inside a business and brandished scissors at a store employee.

### DUI Arrest

March 10 at 12:55 a.m. near 5700 Cherrywood Lane.

### Firearms Surrender

On March 8 at 10:00 a.m. near 550 Crescent Road, firearms and ammunition were submitted for destruction.

### Theft

On March 6 near 8000 Lakecrest Drive, package theft. On March 8 near 9100 Springhill Lane, a black backpack was snatched when the victim set it down on the sidewalk. Commercial theft occurred March 6 near 6100 Greenbelt Road, March 10 near 5900 Greenbelt Road, and March 12 near 7500 Greenbelt Road.

### Threats

On March 7 at 9:04 a.m. near Hamilton Place, a disgruntled homeowner sent threatening emails to HOA board; options advised. On March 10 at 3:44 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, a customer threatened employees.

### Trespassing

On March 9 at 12:10 a.m. near 7400 Greenway Center Drive, a man was banned from the property after trespassing.

### Vandalism

On March 6 near 6100 Breezewood Drive, a rear patio window was broken. On March 6 near Woodland Way, a Black

Lives Matter sign was vandalized. On March 10 near 6000 Cherrywood Court, two No Parking signs on Cherrywood Lane were spray-painted black. On March 11 near 5900 Springhill Drive, a residence window was broken.

### Vehicle Crimes

#### Attempted Theft of Vehicles

Vehicles were found with damaged steering column and ignition consistent with attempted theft: March 6, a 2020 Kia Soul near 9300 Edmonston Road; March 7, a Hyundai Elantra near 9100 Springhill Lane, and a 2012 Kia Soul near 9100 Springhill Lane; and March 9, a 2011 Hyundai Sonata near 6200 Breezewood Drive. On March 11 at 12:55 a.m. near 7800 Hanover Parkway, a 2014 Hyundai Sonata was found with a window broken and the ignition popped; when officers were unable to contact the owner, the car was impounded for safekeeping.

### Stolen Vehicles

Six vehicles were stolen: March 7 near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, a 2014 blue Hyundai Elantra (Md. plate 1EP1887); March 8, near 100 Westway, a 2021 red Honda Accord (D.C. plate JB4018), and near 9100 Edmonston Court, a white 2014 Ford Econoline van (Md. plate 3FG7670); March 9 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, a 2019 black Kia Optima (Md. plate 4DT2681); March 10 near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a gray 2006 Kia Sorento left unattended, running and unlocked (Md. plate 6FB8567); and March 11 near Crescent Road, a red 2016 Hyundai Elantra (Md. plate 3EX6750).

### Theft from Auto

Tires and rims were stolen from two Honda Accords: March 6 near 9100 Edmonston Road, and March 11 near Edmonston Road and Edmonston Court. License plates were stolen March 10, near 9300 Edmonston Road (rear) and near 6000 Springhill Drive (front). On March 9 near 6100 Breezewood Court, a disabled placard was stolen. On March 6 near 6100 Breezewood Court, a Buick Encore with a window halfway down had property stolen. On March 12 near Southway, property was taken from an unlocked car. On March 10 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a Jeep Grand Cherokee had a window broken, but nothing taken.

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## Cub Scouts Hold Pinewood Derby



PHOTO BY BARRETT BEDFORD-DILLOW



PHOTO BY THELMA MARTINEZ



PHOTO BY CANDICE SHIPP

Pack 202's cub scouts raced their Pinewood Derby cars at the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, March 11.



PHOTO BY CALLUM BEDFORD-DILLOW

Someone's ready for St. Patrick's Day on Maplewood Court.

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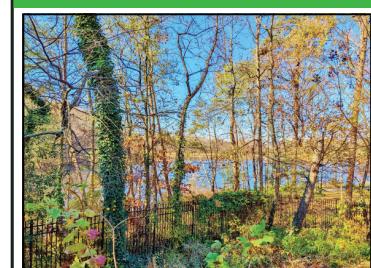
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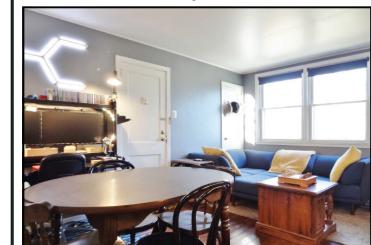
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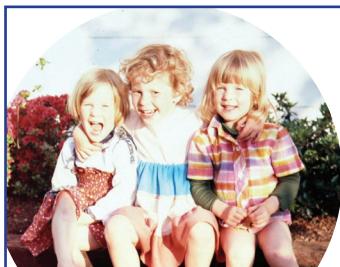
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## NEWS REVIEW continued from page 1

decision making, the backbone of democracy. It also covers local residents: their accomplishments, joys and tragedies. The newspaper is mostly a volunteer effort, by the people, for the people and about the people of Greenbelt. That began with Greenbelt's 1937 founding, when applicant screening included willingness to be involved in community activities, and the first paper was published within six weeks after the first residents moved in. At that time women in Greenbelt were less likely to be employed outside the home, yet many Greenbelt wives were well-educated and well-informed, having grown up with newspapers, attended college and worked before marriage. They wanted to explore the community, and spend time with other adults, to make a difference in Greenbelt. The News Review offered (and offers) diverse roles, by day or evening, from a few hours to many, with token payment. For some women, the pay helped for incidentals, and the newspaper involvement gave them meaningful work, connections, and community.

### Dorothy Sucher (Writer, 1960- 1971)



Dorothy Sucher

Dorothy Sucher arrived in Greenbelt in 1957. "For a while I went quietly crazy in my GHI house surrounded by babies," she wrote. She joined the Co-op Nursery, as a mother and board member, and the News Review. She said the News Review came to be her focus beyond her family, that people came to know her as herself, not a wife and mother, and she thrived. She later cofounded the Greenbelt Museum and founded the Women's Investment Group of Greenbelt and the Greenbelt Writers Group. She was smart, artistic and wrote beautifully, producing city council reporting, feature stories and the opinion column Point of View. In addition to the News Review, she taught writing, was an essayist, a published mystery writer, a watercolorist, gardener and designed her Greenbelt home. In midlife she became a psychotherapist.

### Sandra Lange (Writer and Layout, 1966-Present)

Sandra Lange filled leadership positions in the Greenbelt Home-maker's Club, the League of Women Voters, the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club, chaired the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, led Greenbelt's 50th and 60th anniversary celebrations, and cofounded the Greenbelt Museum with Sucher, in conjunction with the 50th anniversary. She met Elaine Skolnik at a GHI meeting and, knowing Lange had been an English teacher, Skolnik recruited Lange to the Greenbelt News Review. Lange reported

on topics including GHI board meetings and city government and services. She applied her artistic skills to arranging stories and display ads while laying out the paper.



Sandra Lange

### Elaine Skolnik (Writer and Board President 1957-2015)

Elaine and Al Skolnik moved to Greenbelt in 1952. She said it was love at first sight: "Oh, those tall pines and oaks, the lake, the large green areas on which the playgrounds beckoned to the children, the cooperative babysitting club, the co-op nursery school and kindergarten. It was such a sweet life." She served on the Park and Recreation Advisory Board, was president of the Co-op Nursery School and vice president of the Co-op kindergarten, and worked behind the scenes for council and GHI candidates. During 1960s and 1970s development battles, she was a leader of the steering committee of the Citizens for a Planned Greenbelt (CFPG), which formed to fight the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's 1965 College Park-Greenbelt Master Plan. The plan called for Greenbelt to become the second largest employment center in the state. In response, CFPG demanded the preservation of the concept of the planned community of Greenbelt.

Elaine began by reading her husband Al's article drafts to ensure their understandability for readers. She nervously took on the Our Neighbors column, and much later reported on development issues. She didn't drive, but spent hours on the phone, for Our Neighbors, organizing 1950s News Review fund drives and interviewing developers. Williamson wrote, "She was a super sleuth reporter interviewing developers, digging into the details of their projects and then writing about them in the newspaper, a challenging task she was proud of."

After Al's unexpected death in 1977, Elaine had a profound effect on the paper, providing guidance and strength at this time. Until 1986, she was News Review president, decided which news the paper should cover, assigned stories to reporters and continued her own investigative reporting, which she particularly treasured. She was thorough, tenacious and accurate.

### Virginia Beauchamp (Writer and Editor, 1957-2016)

Virginia Beauchamp moved to Greenbelt in 1957 and said the News Review offered "an opportunity for adult conversation and to learn more about my new community." She was a University of Maryland professor and scholar who later founded the University's Women's Studies

program and was instrumental in implementing Title IX sex discrimination protections in Maryland educational institutions. She helped found the Women's Action Coalition of Prince George's County, served on the Prince George's County Commission on Women to improve quality of life for local women and girls, and in 2003 was inducted into the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame.

Beauchamp began in 1957 as a reporter and a senior copy editor until stepping away in 2016 at age 95. Williamson remembered her as a determined woman, with a husband in Vietnam, raising children, running the household, teaching, with no childcare resources, "and being paid squat!" Her requests to the university for pay comparable to her male colleagues were denied because "you have a husband," when in fact his Army pay was minimal. Quiet, demure and tough, Williamson said "she pursued things she felt strongly about and carried those efforts into the paper." Williamson said Beauchamp used her language skills to easily read and fix what wasn't written well. "She taught and explained so people learned a lot. And she made sure we understood what the [news] issues really were. She was our professor."



Virginia Walcott Beauchamp

### Mary Lou Williamson (Editor and Writer, 1962-Present)

Beauchamp recruited her neighbor Williamson in 1962, when the paper was assembling a 25th anniversary history of Greenbelt and she discovered Williamson had studied history. Williamson progressed to proofreading the paper and writing headlines, later becoming an accomplished city council reporter. She first became editor in 1964. Sucher and Williamson alternated the editor role between 1963 and 1967, upon the Sucher family's temporary move to Switzerland where her husband worked at CERN and Williamson taking a maternity leave after Sucher's return to Greenbelt.

As editor, Williamson worked to expand the size of the paper from four or six pages to eight, and much later to 12, increasing advertising revenue to fund more content.

Williamson wrote she has "... had a life-long love affair with newspapers. We were always a two-newspaper family when I was growing up in Chicago - Tribune in the morning, Sun Times in the evening. I had a brief stint as sports-page editor in ninth grade and three years on my college newspaper, two as business manager." She moved here in 1962, filling leadership roles for the Greenbelt Nursery School and Eleanor Roosevelt Instrumental Music Parents As-

sociation, volunteered for the Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team, led a 4-H club and later edited the Greenbelt 50th anniversary book Greenbelt: History of a New Town.

### Hard News

News Review history cannot be told without Al Skolnik, who set the standard for reporting news accurately, truthfully and fairly, without added interpretation. The News Review published both hard news (city council, GHI, city and county government, zoning and development) and more general community news. Al was board president and news editor.

The paper was and is a cooperative, with members filling their main roles, sharing roles, pitching in as needed and according to their interests, and mentoring new members to absorb the paper's standards and culture. They learned journalistic writing and integrity by writing, being edited, proofreading others' work and reading published articles.

Sucher, Williamson, Elaine Skolnik, Beauchamp and Al Skolnik were among those who covered city council, the GHI board and development issues. Sucher and Williamson were the writers reporting on October 1965 city council meetings for the News Review, at which real estate developer Charles Bresler (also a state delegate) requested a zoning variance to develop at higher density a parcel he owned in Greenbelt, when the city also wished to buy another parcel he owned, to build a high school. At the first council meeting, a citizen called his request "blackmail." When the News Review reported it, Bresler, who was running for election as Maryland comptroller in 1966, sued the paper and board president Al Skolnik for libel for two million dollars, a suit which presented a First Amendment issue. Bresler won two lower court decisions in 1968 and 1969.

The News Review appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which in 1970 found for the newspaper, stating "the articles published in the News Review were accurate, full, and truthful reports of what had been said," and that the newspaper was "performing its wholly legitimate function as a community newspaper when it published full reports of these public debates ... [To do otherwise] would subvert the most fundamental meaning of a free press."

The staff's cooperative cross training paid off as Al, Elaine and others focused on the libel defense for four years. Williamson wrote "My job [as editor] was to keep the paper running smoothly."

### Mary Smith Granofsky (Writer 1964-67, Editor 1967-1972)

From 1967 to 1972, Mary Smith Granofsky was editor, with Dorothy Sucher as associate editor for a time. Granofsky was a master organizer and proofread the court briefs filed in the libel suit. In 1977 Granofsky said, "I've done two really good things in my life – raising good children and working on the News Review suit...."

### Sustainment and Recruitment

In 1972 Mary Smith Granofsky passed the editor's pen back to today's editor Williamson, known for being tough, but warm and polished.



Sally Meredith types in the Greenbelt Cooperator office in 1942.

In 1980, three years after Al's death, city manager Jim Giese realized Mary Lou had worked late Tuesday night assembling the paper, on Wednesday attended the same Upper Marlboro zoning hearing that he did, and Wednesday evening attended a council worksession. He sent a letter to the editor.

He wrote "the largest share of the [paper's] work load and responsibilities fall upon the shoulders of Mary Lou and long-time News Review workaholic, Elaine Skolnik. ... I urge all citizens of Greenbelt who consider it essential that Greenbelt have its own independent newspaper to consider how they can help to keep this newspaper going." His 1980 plea brought Mavis Fletcher, Bill Rowland and Diane Oberg to the paper, followed by Pat Scully who responded to an ad seeking volunteers.

Diane and Pat are there today, on the staff and the board. Diane began working with ads, later laying out the paper, and supporting business manager Mary Halford. She began reporting in 1985 when Elaine asked her to write about election results; Mavis Fletcher trained her in city council reporting. Oberg said Elaine ensured staff learned the background they needed to be successful, which Oberg now does for new city council reporters.

## City Notes

City staff facilitated the Winter Youth Musical, including Public Works theater construction and Arts staff management of 93 costumes and a dress rehearsal.

Horticulture/Parks routed, painted and installed a new sign for Greenbriar Forest Preserve. Refuse/Recycling collected 25.99 tons of refuse and 9.81 tons of recyclables and Building Maintenance repaired controls for the pump in the Public Works geothermal room. Sustainability/Environmental delivered an introductory vermicompost kit to Eleanor Roosevelt High School's Homegrown Club.

Animal Shelter residents are two dogs, six cats, six kittens and three rabbits.

The Community Center hosted a blood drive and 10 groups rented space. The Greenbelt Assistance in Living program, Concert Band, Golden Age Club, Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service and Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association met at the facility.

Arts, GATE and the Old Greenbelt Theatre partnered on an Artful Afternoon featuring animation activities.

Park rangers increased patrols at the Schrom Hills Three Sisters Garden because of vandalism. Green Ridge House presented a Renter's Tax Credit workshop.